1. A method comprising the steps of:

(a) retrieving real time status for a certificate;

(b) storing said real time status; and

(c) storing validation information for said certificate, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a time said real time status was retrieved and a validation interval for said real time status.

2. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said step (c) includes the step of:

(1) setting said validation interval to zero when said real time status retrieved in said step (a) is not valid.

3. (New) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

(d) receiving a request to export said certificate;

(e) checking a status for said certificate at a check time; and

(f) providing a response to said request to export said certificate.

4. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said step (e) includes the step of:

(1) determining whether said check time falls within a time period, wherein said time period begins at said time said real time status was retrieved and extends for said validation interval.

5. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said step (e)(1) includes the step of:

(i) accessing said identifier and said validation interval stored in said step (c).

6. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(1) exporting said certificate, if said check time falls within said time period.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(2) issuing an error message, if said check time does not fall within said time period.

8. (New) The method of claim 4, further including the step of:

(g) determining whether to check status for said certificate in real time,

wherein said step (e)(1) is only performed if it is determined in said step (g) not to check status for said certificate in real time,

wherein said step (e) further includes the step of:

(2) retrieving a new real time status for said certificate, if it is determined in said step (g) to check status for said certificate in real time.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(3) exporting said certificate, if said new real time status is retrieved for said certificate in said step (e)(2) and said new real time status indicates said certificate is valid.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(4) issuing an error message, if said new real time status is retrieved for said certificate in said step (e)(2) and said new real time status indicates said certificate is not valid.

11. (New) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

(h) receiving a request to display information from said certificate;

(j) retrieving a status for said certificate; and

(k) displaying said information from said certificate and said status.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said step (j) is performed after said step (a) and said step (b) and said status retrieved in said step (j) is said real time status stored in said step (b).

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said step (j) includes the steps of:

(1) determining whether to check status for said certificate in real time;

(2) retrieving a new real time status for said certificate to serve as said status, if it is determined to check status in real time in said step (j)(1); and

(3) retrieving said real time status stored in said step (b) to serve as said status, if it is determined not to check status in real time in said step (j)(1).

14. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a real time status for a certificate;

(b) storing validation information for said certificate, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a status time and a validation interval for said real time status;

(c) receiving a request related to said certificate; and

(d) employing said validation information to check a status for said certificate in response to said request.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said step (d) is performed at a check time and includes the step of:

(1) determining whether said check time falls within a time period, wherein said time period begins at said status time and extends for said validation interval.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said request calls for exporting said certificate.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, further including the step of:

(e) providing a response to said request to export said certificate, wherein said step (e) includes the step of:

(1) exporting said certificate, if said check time falls within said time period.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said step (e) further includes the step of:

(2) issuing an error message, if said check time does not fall within said time period.

19. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said step (b) includes the step of:

(1) setting said validation interval to zero when said real time status stored in said step (a) is not valid.

20. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said one or more processor readable storage devices, said

processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

(a) retrieving real time status for a certificate;

(b) storing said real time status; and

(c) storing validation information for said certificate, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a time said real time status was retrieved and a validation interval for said real time status.

21. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 20, wherein said step (c) includes the step of:

(1) setting said validation interval to zero when said real time status retrieved in said step (a) is not valid.

22. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 20, further including the steps of:

(d) receiving a request to export said certificate;

(e) checking a status for said certificate at a check time; and

(f) providing a response to said request to export said certificate.

23. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 22, wherein said step (e) includes the step of:

(1) determining whether said check time falls within a time period, wherein said time period begins at said time said real time status was retrieved and extends for said validation interval.

24. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 23, wherein said step (e)(1) includes the step of:

(i) accessing said identifier and said validation interval stored in said step (c).

25. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 23, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(1) exporting said certificate, if said check time falls within said time period.

26. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 25, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(2) issuing an error message, if said check time does not fall within said time period.

27. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 20, further including the steps of:

(h) receiving a request to display information from said certificate;

(j) retrieving a status for said certificate; and

(k) displaying said information from said certificate and said status.

28. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 27, wherein said step (j) is performed after said step (a) and said step (b) and said status retrieved in said step (j) is said real time status stored in said step (b).

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29. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said one or more processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a real time status for a certificate;

(b) storing validation information for said certificate, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a status time and a validation interval for said real time status;

(c) receiving a request related to said certificate; and

(d) employing said validation information to check a status for said certificate in response to said request.

30. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 29, wherein said step (d) is performed at a check time and includes the step of:

(1) determining whether said check time falls within a time period, wherein said time period begins at said status time and extends for said validation interval.

31. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 30, wherein said request calls for exporting said certificate.

32. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 31, further including the step of:

(e) providing a response to said request to export said certificate, wherein said step (e) includes the steps of:

(1) exporting said certificate, if said check time falls within said time period, and

(2) issuing an error message, if said check time does not fall within said time period.

33. (New) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 29, wherein said step (b) includes the step of:

(1) setting said validation interval to zero when said real time status stored in said step (a) is not valid.

34. (New) An apparatus comprising:

one or more communications interfaces;

one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising the steps of:

(a) retrieving real time status for a certificate;

(b) storing said real time status; and

(c) storing validation information for said certificate, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a time said real time status was retrieved and a validation interval for said real time status.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further including the steps of:

(d) receiving a request to export said certificate;

(e) checking a status for said certificate at a check time, wherein said step (e) includes the step of:

(1) determining whether said check time falls within a time period, wherein said time period begins at said time said real time status was retrieved and extends for said validation interval; and

(f) providing a response to said request to export said certificate.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said step (e)(1) includes the step of:

(i) accessing said identifier and said validation interval stored in said step (c).

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said step (f) includes the step of:

(1) exporting said certificate, if said check time falls within said time period.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further including the steps of:

(g) receiving a request to display information from said certificate;

(h) retrieving a status for said certificate, wherein said step (h) is performed after said step (a) and said step (b) and said status retrieved in said step (h) is said real time status stored in said step (b); and

(k) displaying said information from said certificate and said status.

39. (New) An apparatus comprising:

one or more communications interfaces;

one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a real time status for a certificate;

(b) storing validation information for said certificate, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a status time and a validation interval for said real time status;

(c) receiving a request related to said certificate; and

(d) employing said validation information to check a status for said certificate in response to said request.